

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 74

By Borchert

A RESOLUTION to honor the centennial of the city of Puryear.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause in its deliberations to join with the cities and counties that comprise this great State in celebrating historic occasions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Puryear and its citizens are most assuredly deserving of special recognition as they celebrate the centennial anniversary of its founding; and

WHEREAS, the area was first settled by the Littleton family before the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Graves Littleton, born June 9, 1860, was a shipper of large quantities of tobacco and other products and saw the need for a railroad through the area; and

WHEREAS, the soon-to-be-constructed Paducah, Tennessee, and Alabama (P. T. & A.) Railroad had been surveyed to run through Conyersville to Whitlock and Paris; and

WHEREAS, seizing the opportunity to bring the railroad through and a depot to their community, Mr. Littleton and Dr. S. H. Caldwell, in petitioning to have the railroad built across the Littleton Farm, spent several days propositioning the President of the P. T. & A., Colonel T. H. Puryear, to change the course of the railroad; and

WHEREAS, realizing that building the railroad through the Littleton Farm would cost less and be shorter and smoother than other proposed routes, and impressed by the two men's suggestion to name the new town in his honor, Colonel Puryear accepted the proposal; and

WHEREAS, the original town site of Puryear consisted of twenty-five acres laid out by Mr. Littleton's father; and

WHEREAS, the City of Puryear was chartered on April 27, 1909, eighteen years after its founding in 1891; during its earliest years, Mr. Littleton stood as the Mayor and the first Depot Agent; and

WHEREAS, within five years of the town's founding, Puryear was home to a Methodist church, a Baptist church, a Church of Christ, and a Pentecostal church; and

WHEREAS, the first store, which also housed the local post office, was opened by a Mr. Wiggins; and

WHEREAS, supported by the railroad, Puryear grew into a bustling town in which a privately owned waterworks system was installed in 1912 and a privately owned telephone system and electric system were installed not long after; and

WHEREAS, in 1914, the Puryear High School was founded; it was combined with all the other county schools into Henry County High School in 1969; and

WHEREAS, in 2004, the Puryear Elementary School was combined with Cottage Grove Elementary School to form the Dorothy and Noble Harrelson Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, though a primarily agricultural town, the City of Puryear has been the home of a large brick plant, a roller mill, and at least two potato houses over the years; and

WHEREAS, the Puryear Lioness Club founded Puryear Day in May of 1979, choosing a date close to the town's charter date for the celebration of the City's birthday; and

WHEREAS, this centennial celebration of Puryear also marks the thirtieth consecutive Puryear Day; and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee takes great pride in recognizing the City of Puryear and its citizens and is grateful for the positive impact Puryear has on the State's development; and

WHEREAS, the City of Puryear is one of the great municipalities in Tennessee and it is most appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor this fine community and its citizenry as they commemorate this significant milestone in their historic existence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate the citizens of the City of Puryear upon the celebration of the City's centennial anniversary and extend to them our best wishes for continued success, growth, and prosperity in their outstanding community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.